(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Electrification of Chennai-Madurai track

129. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is. the stage of electrification of Chennai to Madurai Railway track; and

(b) how many other electrification proposals in Southern Railway are pending and at what stages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) On Chennai-Madurai rail line, Chennai-Villupuram section is already electrified. Electrification work of Villupuram- Tiruchchirappalli section is in progress and targeted for completion by March 2009. Electrification of Tiruchchirappalli-Madurai section has been included in Budget 2007-08 and preliminary works are being taken up in hand.

(b) There is one electrification proposal i.e. Madurai-Tuticorin-Nagarcoil section (262 Route Kilometres) of Southern Railway is under examination.

Budget hotels in Tamil Nadu

130. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Budget Hotels are proposed to be built by Railways in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the places earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) In order to meet the requirement of the passengers, this Ministry has decided to setup 100 Budget Hotels over Indian Railways. Out of these, 9 Budget Hotel locations have been identified by the Indian Railways in the State of Tamil Nadu. These are Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Coimbatore, Rameshwaram, Ooty. Kanyakumari, Tuticorin, Madurai and Kodaikanal Road.

Shifting the office of Chief Engineer from Thiruvananthapuram to Chennai

131. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Southern Railway has decided to shift the office of the Chief Engineer (Construction) from Thiruvananthapuram to Egmore, Chennai; and

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Chief Engineer (Construction), Thiruvananthapuram Office was decided to be shifted to Chennai with a view to have better coordination with Officers of various departments headquartered at Chennai. However, the orders issued in this regard shifting headquarter of Chief Engineer (Construction), Thiruvananthapuram to Chennai have been cancelled for the present.